

REMARKS

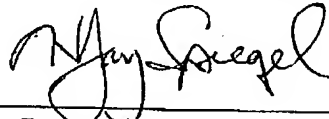
This Preliminary Amendment is presented as a result of an interview conducted on July 6, 2004, with Examiner Gentle Winter. The Examiner's courtesy in scheduling and conducting the interview is sincerely appreciated.

During the course of the interview, the prior art references made of record by Applicant were discussed along with U.S. Patent No. 5,830,556 to Miyazaki et al. that was uncovered by the Examiner during the course of his search. The claims were amended as set forth herein as a result of the telephone interview. The Examiner will discuss the substance of the interview in an Interview Summary form.

Based upon the amendments set forth herein, Applicant understands that the application is now in condition for allowance. Mailing of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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